

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 RANGOO 01734 170656Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00

MC-02 IGA-02 EB-07 COME-00 /032 W

-----171205Z 108510 /53

R 170330Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3661

CONFIDENTIAL RANGOON 1734

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, BM

SUBJ: BURMESE REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING RECOILLESS RIFELS

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A REPEAT OF A DAO MESSAGE:

BEGIN QUOTE. AT MOD RQSTD MEETING WITH DATT 13 JUN, BURMA

ARMY REP STATED GUB INTEREST AS FOLL RE MIL WPNS/AMMO

PROCUREMENT/MANUFACTURE:

A. GUB DESIRES TO PURCHASE ABOUT 150 57MM RR AND 100,000

ROUNDS FROM US OR OTHER WPNS SOURCE. ALTERNATIVELY, IF ITEMS NOT

AVAIL FOR PURCHASE, GUB DESIRES, IF POSS, TO OBTAIN NEC TECH PKS

AND PERMISSION FR US FOR LOCAL MANUFACTURE OF WPN AND AMMO BY BURMA

DEF INDUST. ALSO, CONTINGENT ON LOCAL PRODUCTION BEING REQUIRED

AND FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVE, GUB WOULD BE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING

THROUGH FMS AS INTERIM WPN FORTY OR FIFTY 90MM RR, M67 AND AMMUNI-
TION.

B. BURMA ATTACHE IN WASH DC ORDERED IN 1976 THROUGH FMS

CHANNELS APPROX 50,000 40MM CART FOR M79 GREN LAUNCHER. DUE LACK OF

ADEQUATE SHIPPING TO RANGOON DELIVERY OF "URGENTLY NEEDED" AMMUNITION

IS DELAYED (PERIOD UNK). CURRENTLY GUB INVESTIGATING COST FEASIBILITY

D

OF AIR SHIPMENT. IN THIS CONNECTION, TO AVOID FUTURE TRANSP PROBS

GUB DESIRES ALSO, IF POSS, TO OBTAIN FR US TECH PKG AND PERMISSION

TO MANUFACTURE 40MM CART.

ACCORDING TO MOD REP, GUB HAS EXHAUSTED ALL FEASIBLE
AVENUES IN ATTEMPTS TO PURCHASE 57MM RR FR INTL ARMS MANUFACTURERS

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(INCL US) WITHOUT SUCCESS, AND HAS ONLY RECENTLY (APPARENTLY
LAST WEEK) DECIDED TO ADDRESS THE FEASIBILITY OF LOCAL MANUFACTURE
OF THESE WEAPONS, AS WELL AS 57MM RR AND 40MM GREN LAUNCHER
AMMUNITION. BASED ON US COMMENT CONCERNING DESIRES OUTLINED
PAR 1 ABOVE GUB WILL INITIATE APPROPRIATE ACTION. END QUOTE.

2. FINANCING OF THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION WAS NOT DIS-

CUSSED PRECISELY. IN CONTEXT IT APPEARED THAT UBL. SEIN TUN HAD IN MIND A CASH PURCHASE. HOWEVER, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HE MIGHT BE CONTEMPLATING FMS CREDITS OR EVEN A GRANT UNDER THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM. IN THE OPINION OF THE DEFENSE ATTACHE, THERE IS NO QUESTION ABOUT THE MILITARY VALUE OF THESE WEAPONS. THE BURMA ARMY OFTEN FINDS ITSELF OUTGUNNED BY INSURGENT AND NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING GROUPS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE EMBASSY IS AWARE THAT ON SOME OCCASIONS NARCOTICS CARAVANS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DELAY PURSUIT BY BURMA ARMY UNITS THROUGH USE OF SIMILAR OR IDENTICAL WEAPONS, WHILE STAYING OUT OF RANGE OF BURMA ARMY COUNTER-FIRE. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT ACQUISITION OF THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF WEAPON REQUESTED BY COL. SEIN TUN IS JUSTIFIED IN PURSUIT OF PRIORITY NATIONAL INTERESTS OF THE US, AND SUPPORTS THE GUB'S REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING THEM.

3. REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON THE FOREGOING AND THE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING FROM ANY SOURCE THE WEAPONS IN QUESTION.

OSBORN

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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From: RANGOON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770645/aaaabnik.tel
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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